



DatelineERS

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Economic Research Service

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ERS is a primary source of economic research and analysis from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, providing timely information on economic and policy issues related to agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America.



www.ers.usda.gov/AboutERS/ERSHistory/50thAnniversary

Commodity Markets and Trade

ERS Outlook reports provide timely analysis of major commodity markets and trade.

This Month

- Feed
- Wheat
- Oil Crops
- Rice
- Sugar and Sweeteners
- Vegetables and Melons
- Cotton and Wool
- Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry

All reports along with a calendar of future releases are available at:

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/outlook

The Diverse Structure of U.S. Beef Cow-Calf Farms

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB73/

Beef cow-calf production in the United States is widespread, occurring in every State. Most beef cow-calf production occurs on large farms, but is not the primary enterprise on many of these farms. Nearly 765,000 farms, about 35 percent of the 2.2 million farms in the United States, had a beef cow inventory in 2007. About a third of farms that raise beef animals had a beef cow inventory of less than 10 cows, more than half had fewer than 20 cows, and nearly 80 percent had fewer than 50 cows. In *The Diverse Structure and Organization of U.S. Beef Cow-Calf Farms*, ERS examines the structure, costs, and characteristics of beef cow-calf producers. Findings suggest that operators of beef cow-calf farms have a diverse set of goals for the cattle enterprise.



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A Better Understanding of Our Food Costs

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR114/

A new ERS food dollar series measures annual expenditures on domestically produced food by individuals living in the United States. This data series is composed of three groupings. The marketing bill series, like the old marketing bill series, identifies the distribution of the food dollar between farm and marketing shares. The industry group series identifies the distribution of the food dollar among 10 distinct food supply chain industry groups. This new food dollar series provides a more detailed answer to the question, "For what do our food dollars pay?"

NAFTA at 17: Full Implementation Leads to Increased Trade and Integration

www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/WRS1101/

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is an integral part of the North American economy. Regional agricultural trade is now free of tariff and quota restrictions, with a few exceptions. During the course of NAFTA's implementation, the agricultural sectors of the member countries have become far more integrated. Efforts to seek deeper regional integration will necessarily focus on increasing the fluidity of cross-border economic activity within the existing framework of NAFTA's free-trade area.



ERS looks at trade expansion in two new reports

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err115/

www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err113/

The rapid increase in the number of bilateral and regional free-trade agreements has raised questions about whether they have, in fact, opened markets, created trade, promoted economic growth, and/or distorted trade. Since 2001, the United States has concluded negotiations with 13 countries, resulting in 8 trade agreements. Three additional agreements have been negotiated but not yet ratified by Congress.



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Selected Trade Agreements and Implications for U.S. Agriculture examines possible impacts of recently implemented free trade agreements (FTAs) where the United States is not a partner, and potential effects of the pending U.S. agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama.

In *Impacts of Reciprocal Trade Expansion*, ERS looks at how reciprocal trade agreements affect trade among member countries and between member and nonmember countries, in the world agricultural marketplace.

Tsunami is unlikely to have major impacts on global rice market

www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/Rice/CurrentIssues.htm

Japan is currently the 10th largest rice producing country in the world, accounting for about 2 percent of the global crop. Several factors indicate that—despite the severe costs in human lives and suffering—the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunami will have little impact on the global rice market and trading prices. This new web page provides background information and data on Japan's rice production and consumption in relation to global markets.

Atlas of Rural and Small-Town America

www.ers.usda.gov/Data/RuralAtlas/

What can users do with the Atlas?

- View county-level maps for over 60 socioeconomic indicators including demographics, employment, income, and agriculture.
- View the entire country or zoom into specific regions, States, or county areas.
- View a selected socioeconomic indicator for counties of a certain type (such as nonmetro, farming-dependent, persistent poverty).
- For any county, view a pop-up window showing all the indicators for that county.
- Print a version of the map or save the image in a graphics-file format that may be added to documents or presentations.
- Download a spreadsheet containing all the data for a selected county or for all U.S. counties.



How to get more information...

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